TAMRA BONVILLAIN • RACHEL DEERING

AFTERSHOCK™
JUSTIN JORDAN • JUAN GEDEON
#5
STRAYER™
TAMRA BONVILLAIN • RACHEL DEERING

STRAYER

5

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Twice.

I have met him twice. The man who has taken everything away from me.

I have never even known his **name.**
I wish this could be **otherwise!**

But each time he has tried to **kill** me...

...he has **pushed further** onto my path.
The Emergent will **not** claim another.

I am **ready**, Reben. I have been ready for quite some time, in fact.

Yes, so you've said. Repeatedly. Continually. I can see you trying to interrupt, and if you keep trying to **rush** me I may somehow forget what it is I am trying to do here, Mala Tenboom.
You will be **told.**

"The Old High Ones took much from this world. So much that those who came after have been locked in the world as it is. We do progress, we persist.

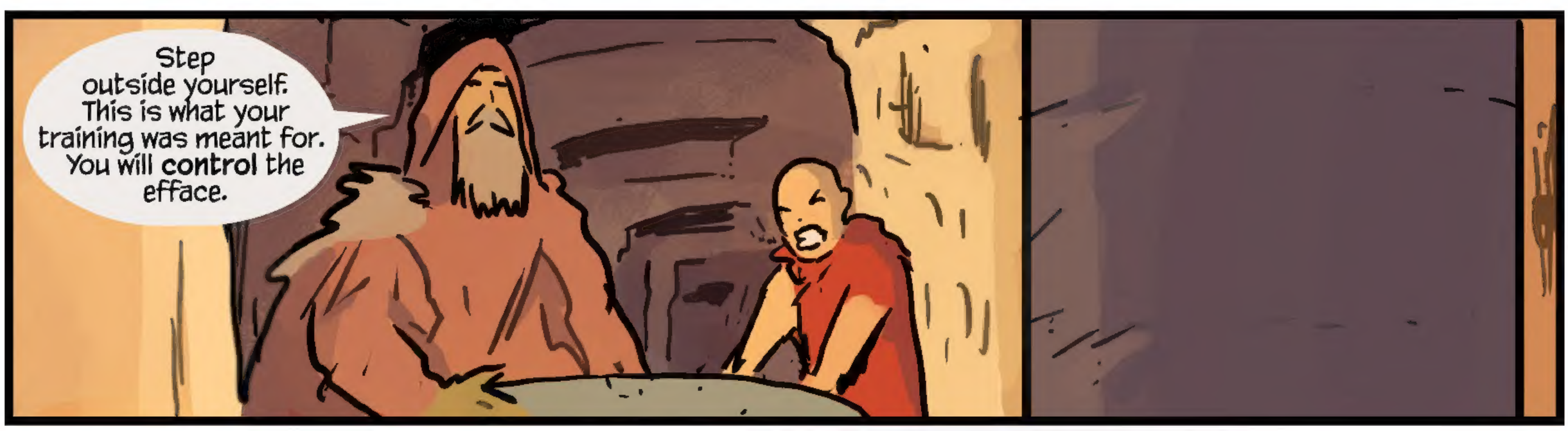
"And what little is left to us is hoarded jealously by those who wish the world to **remain** as it is."

Our one goal is to bring back the **Age of Wonder.**
To break this stasis. To tear down the Emergent and those like it.

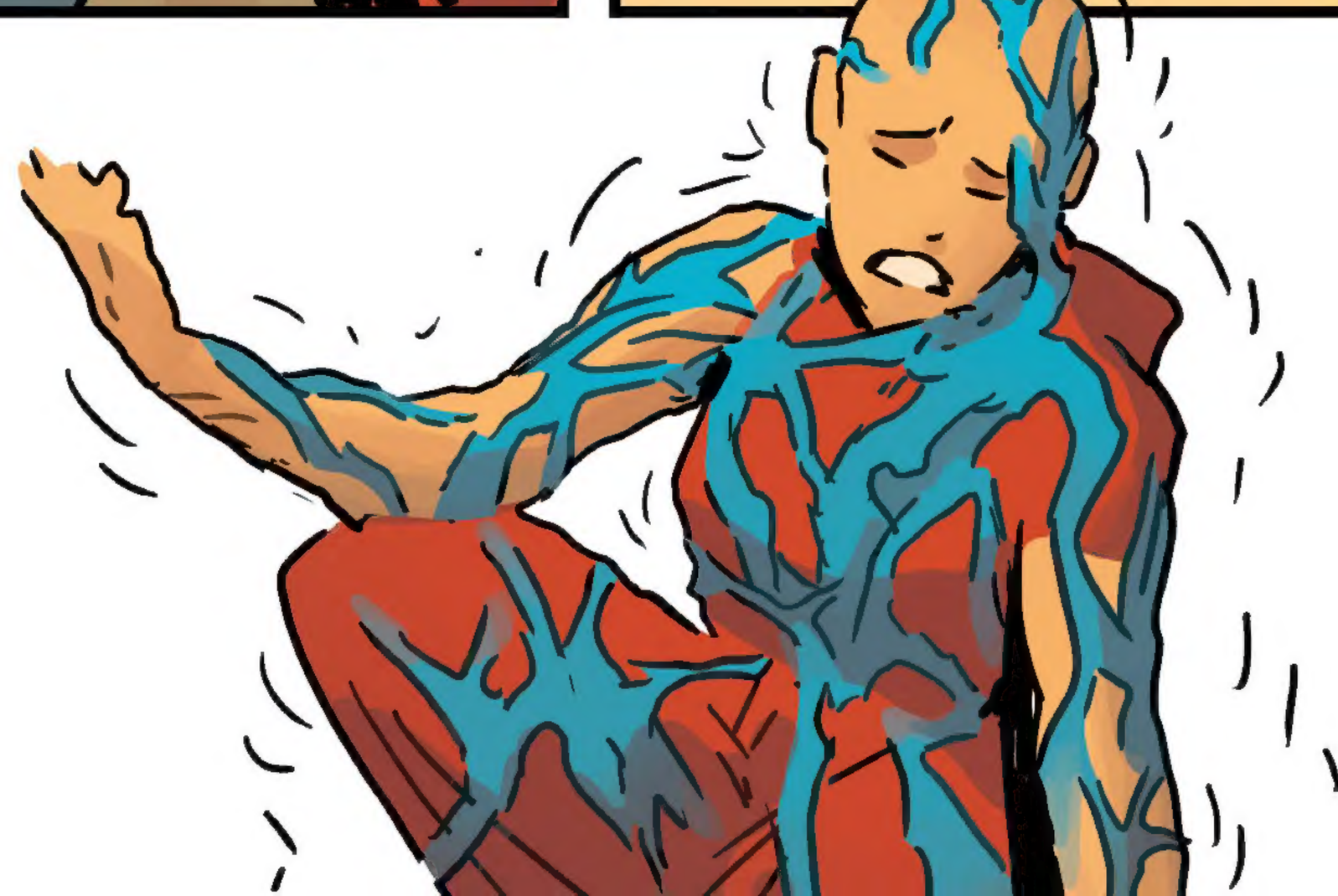
If you choose this, you will be forever marked. Forever hunted. Forever--

Yes, yes I--

Ahhhhh!


Step outside yourself. This is what your training was meant for. You will **control** the efface.

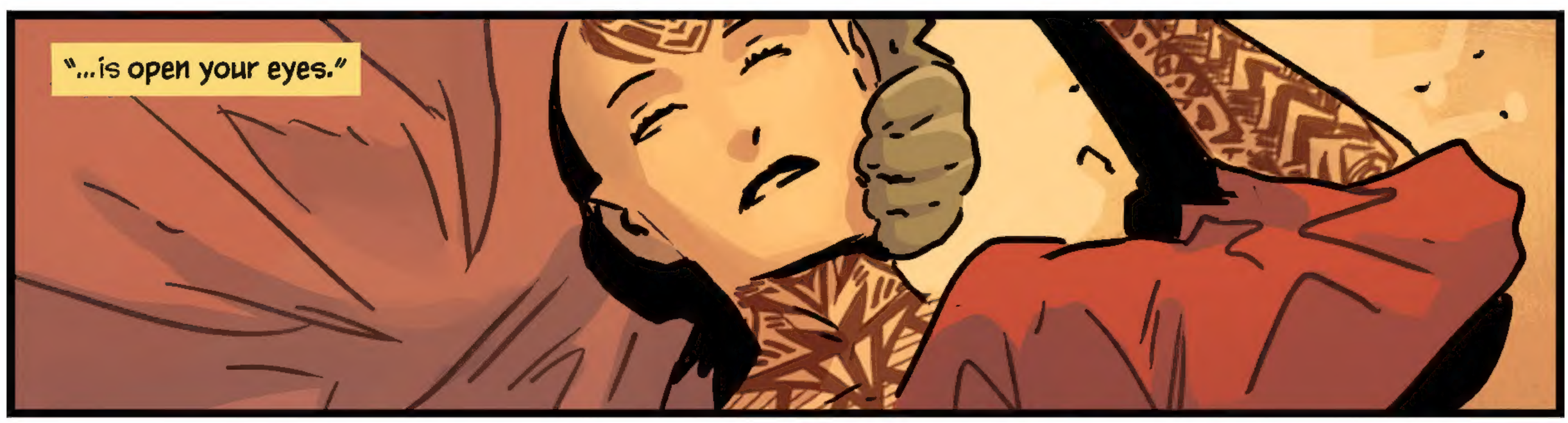
Please, it...it...



...it hurts.

It hurts.

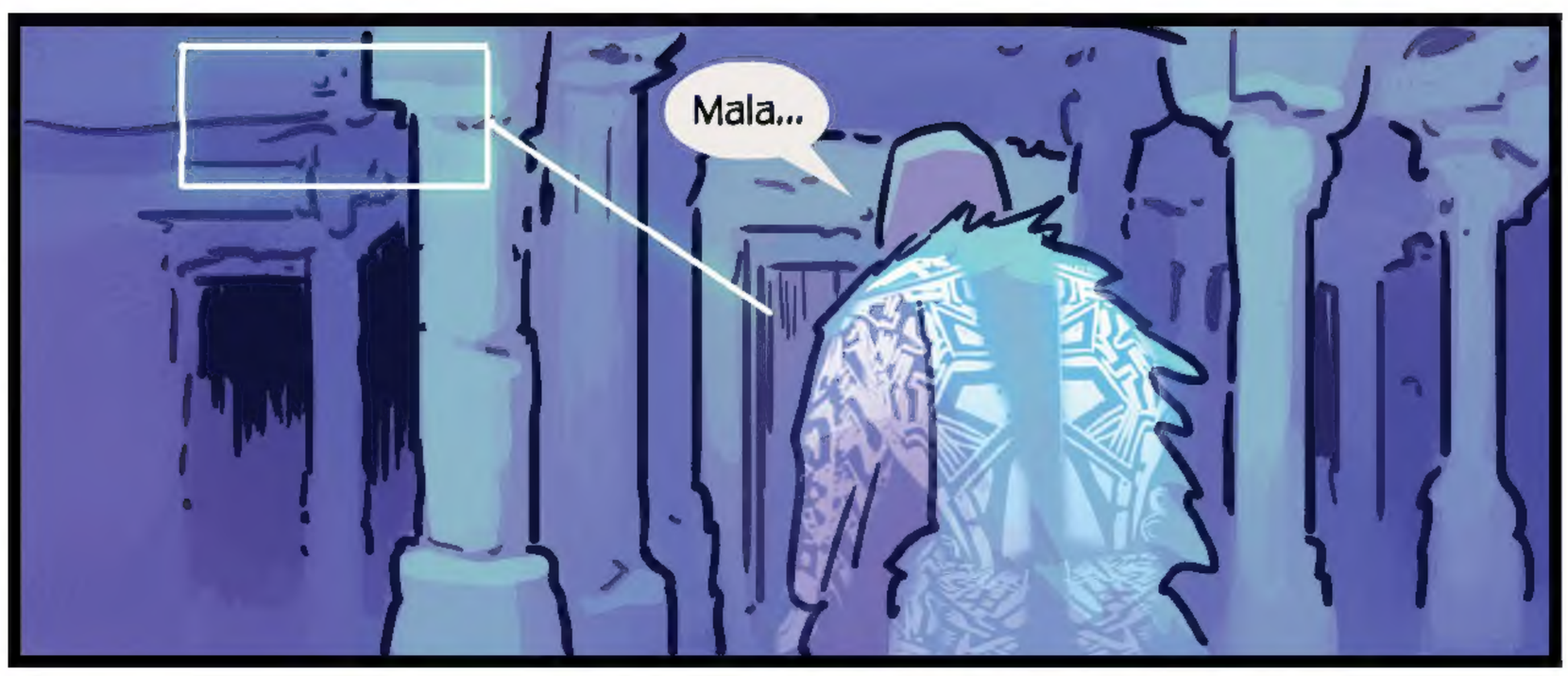
It will pass. You are **connected** now. You will be able to see the **hidden truths** of our world. All you need do...


"...is open your eyes."

I can see.

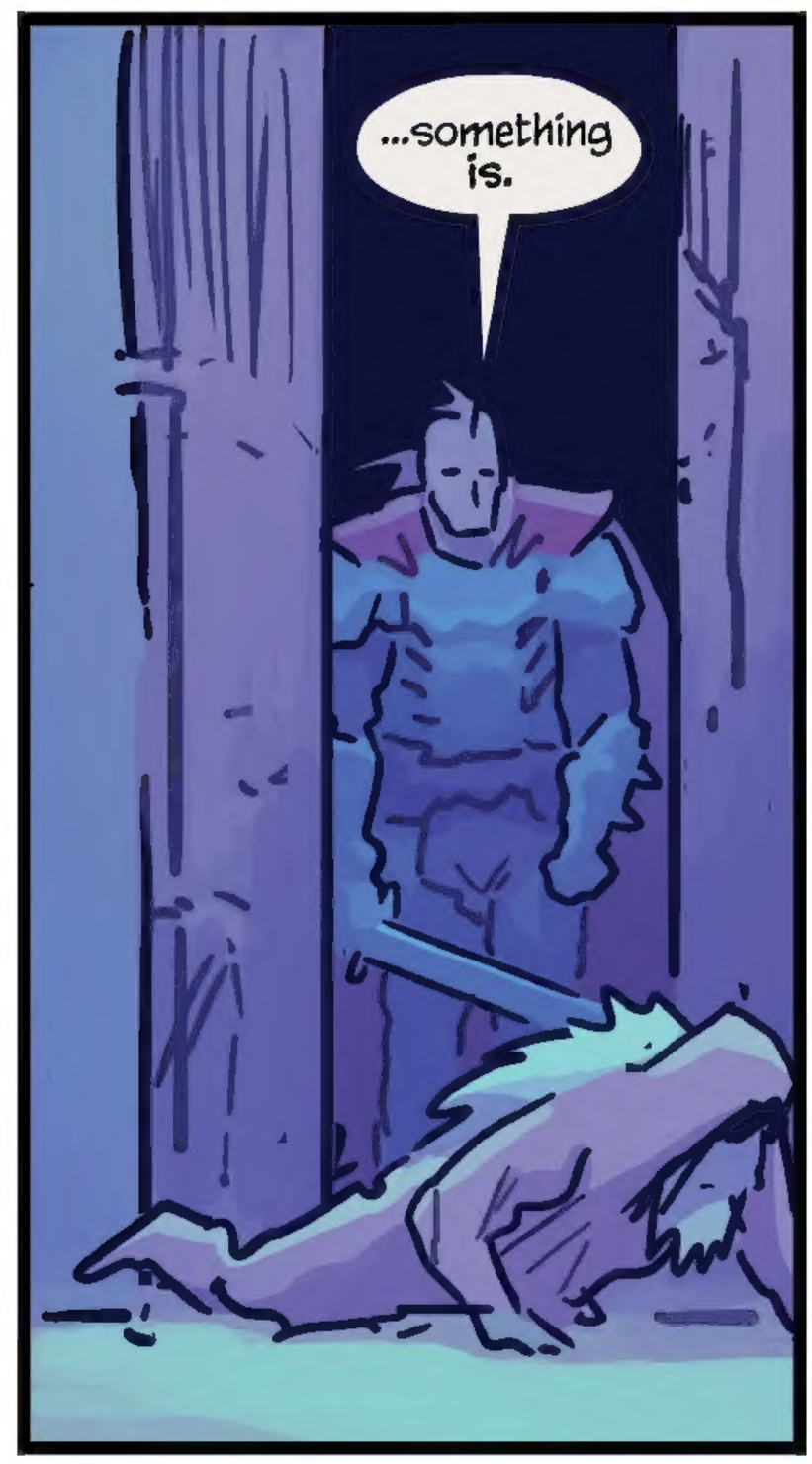
I can see it all.

No. We should have been safe.


Mala...

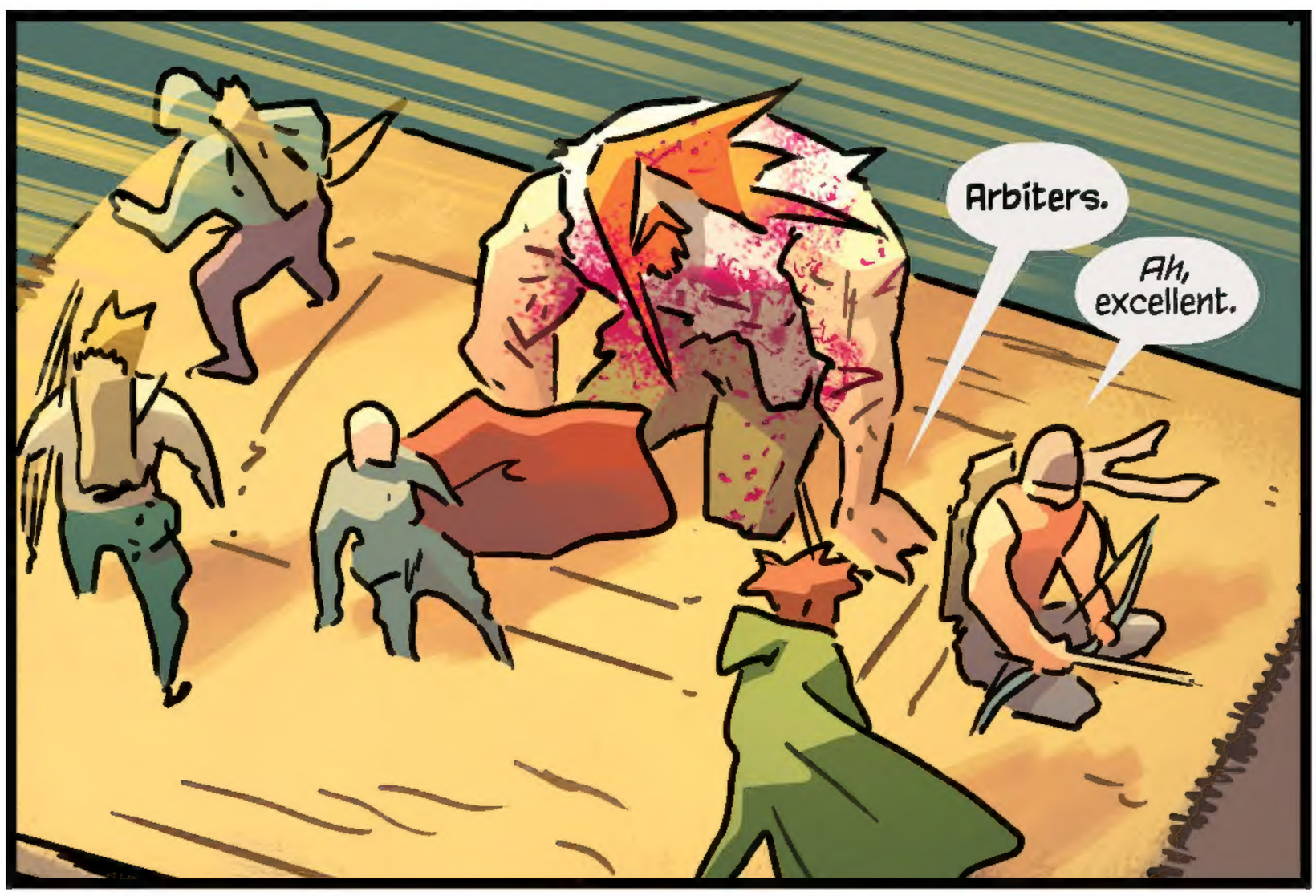
Something is wrong.

Yes...


...something is.

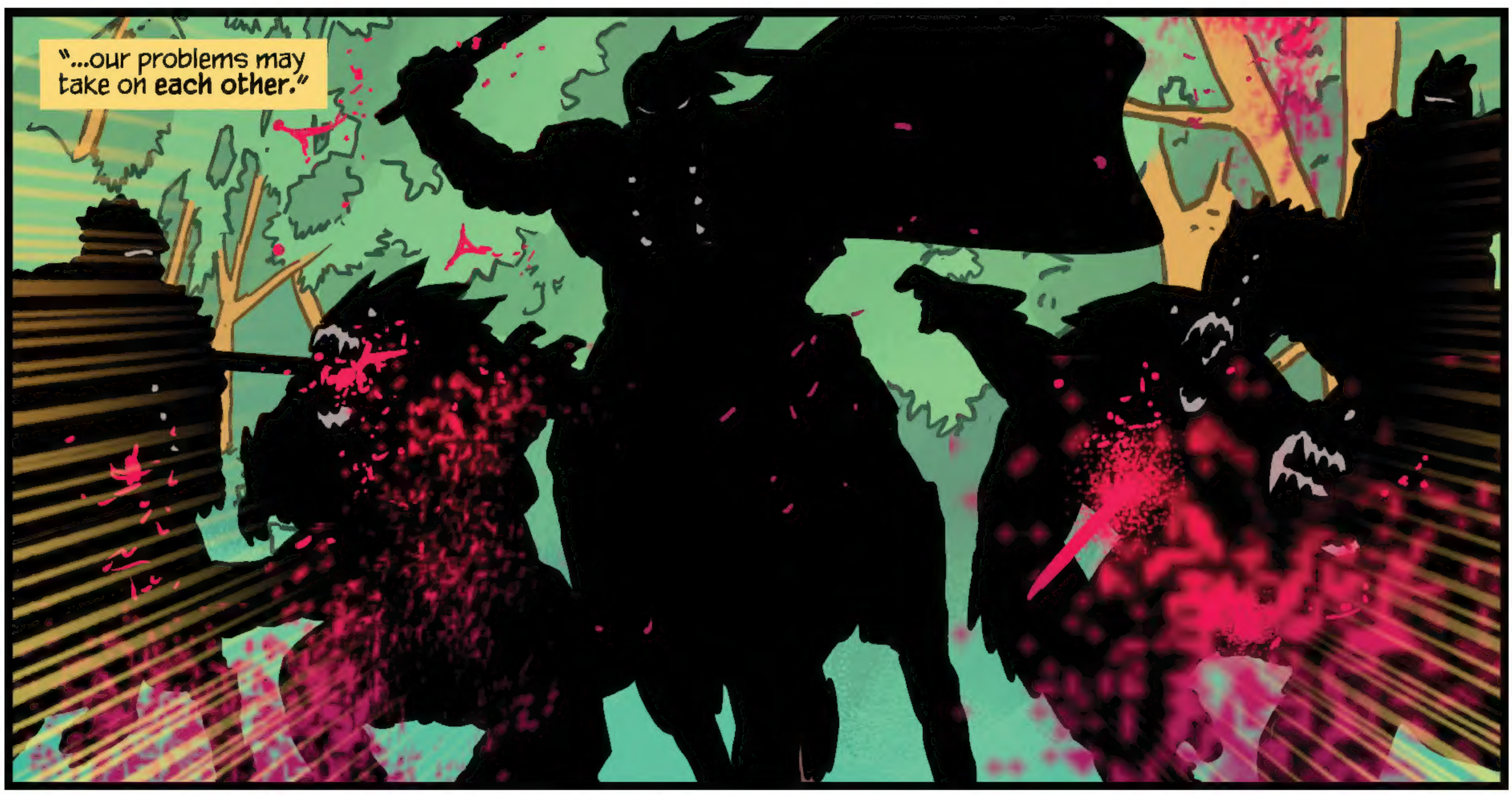
No.

You pick the worst times to go **insane**, Mala.


Arbiters.
Ah, excellent.

I **do** love a challenge.

You'll never penetrate their armor at this range.
Besides...

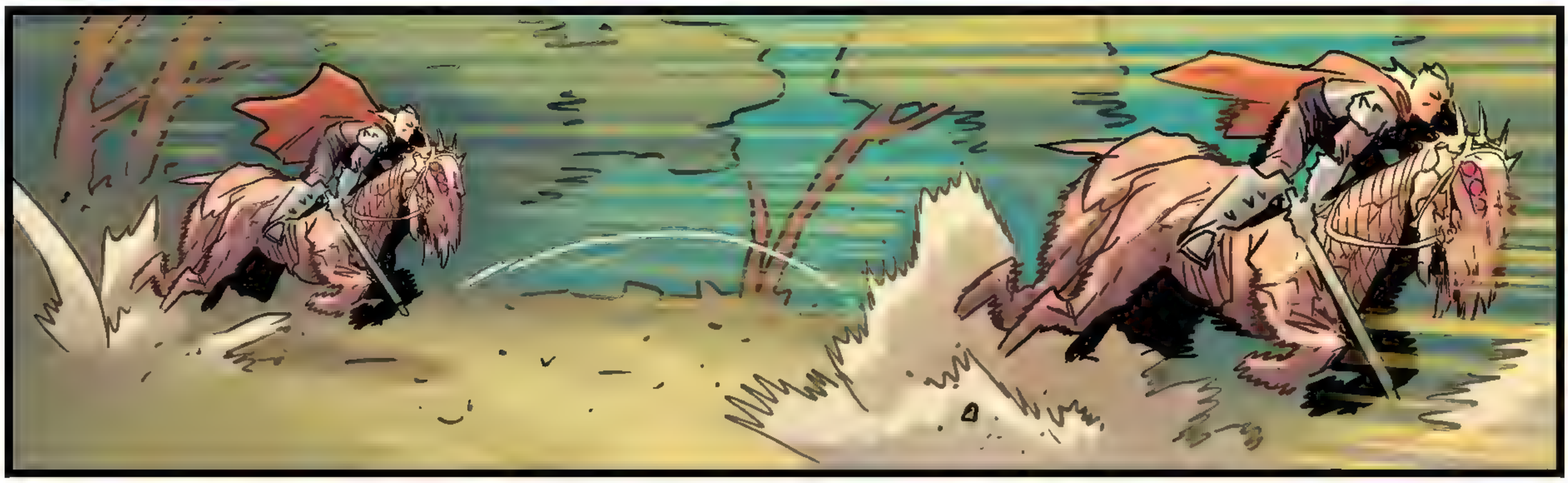

"...our problems may take on **each other**."

If you're going to turn into a log, could you at least **release** me from your control? I don't really want to **carry you around** when I am trying to not die.

He's coming.

Yes...

"...he certainly is."

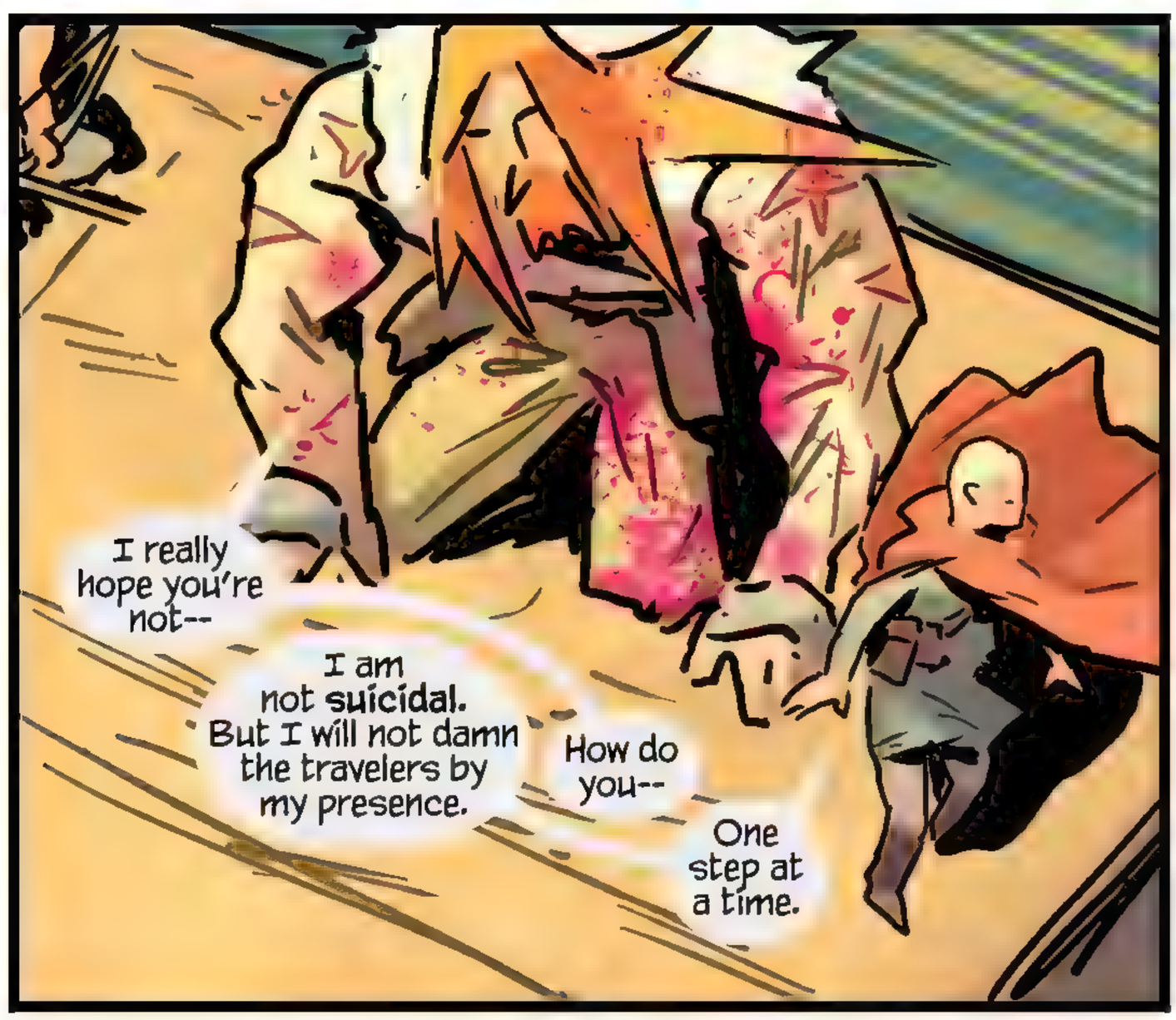


Hope is never a plan.

Can we outrun them?
Maybe. We've got a head start and they had to ride their sleps hard to catch us.
We might be able to outpace them.
Maybe. Possibly.
That is not especially reassuring.

We could--
We...

...will do nothing. Kruegen wants me.

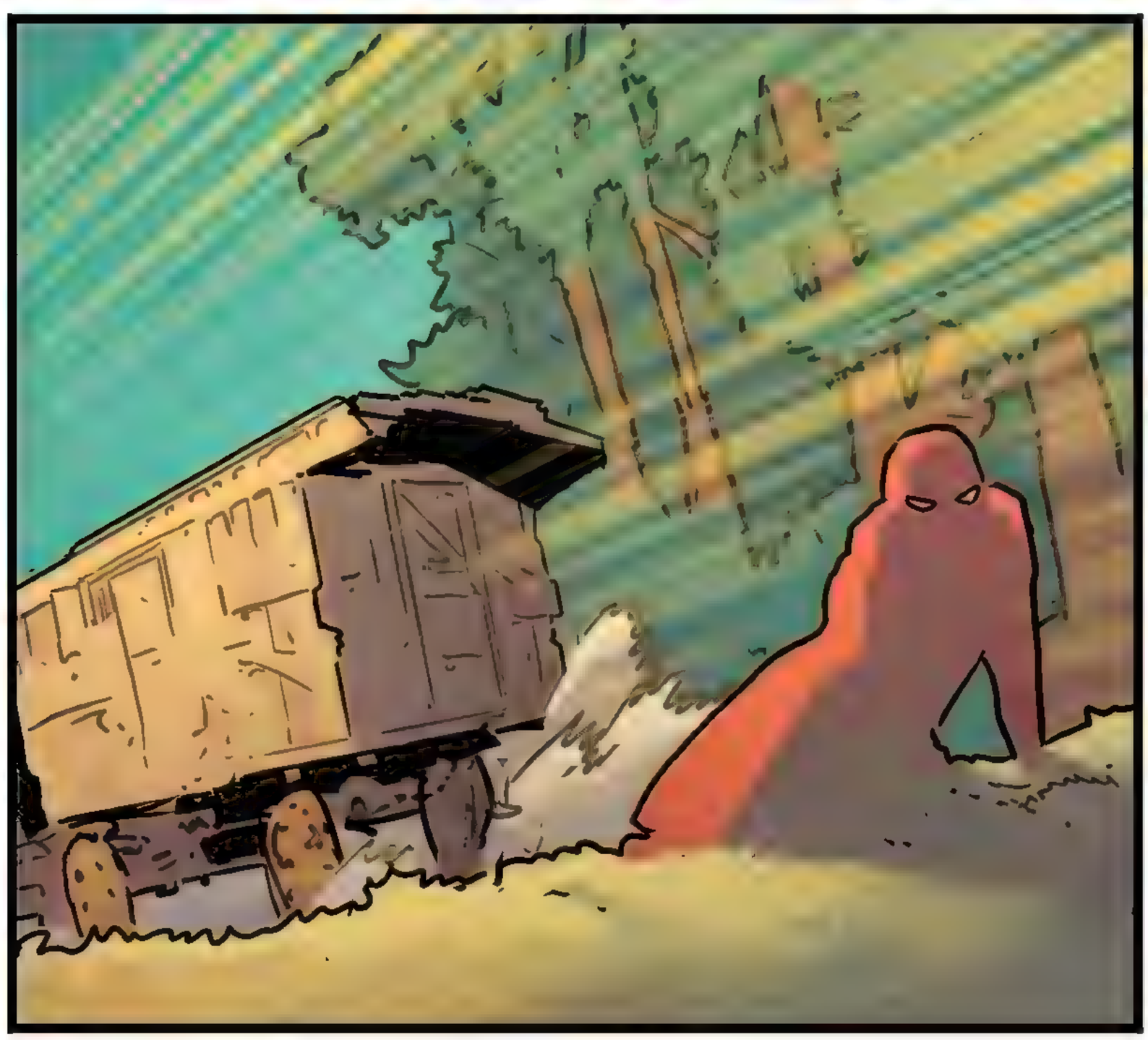

I really hope you're not--
I am not suicidal. But I will not damn the travelers by my presence.
How do you--
One step at a time.

Don't--

--do that.

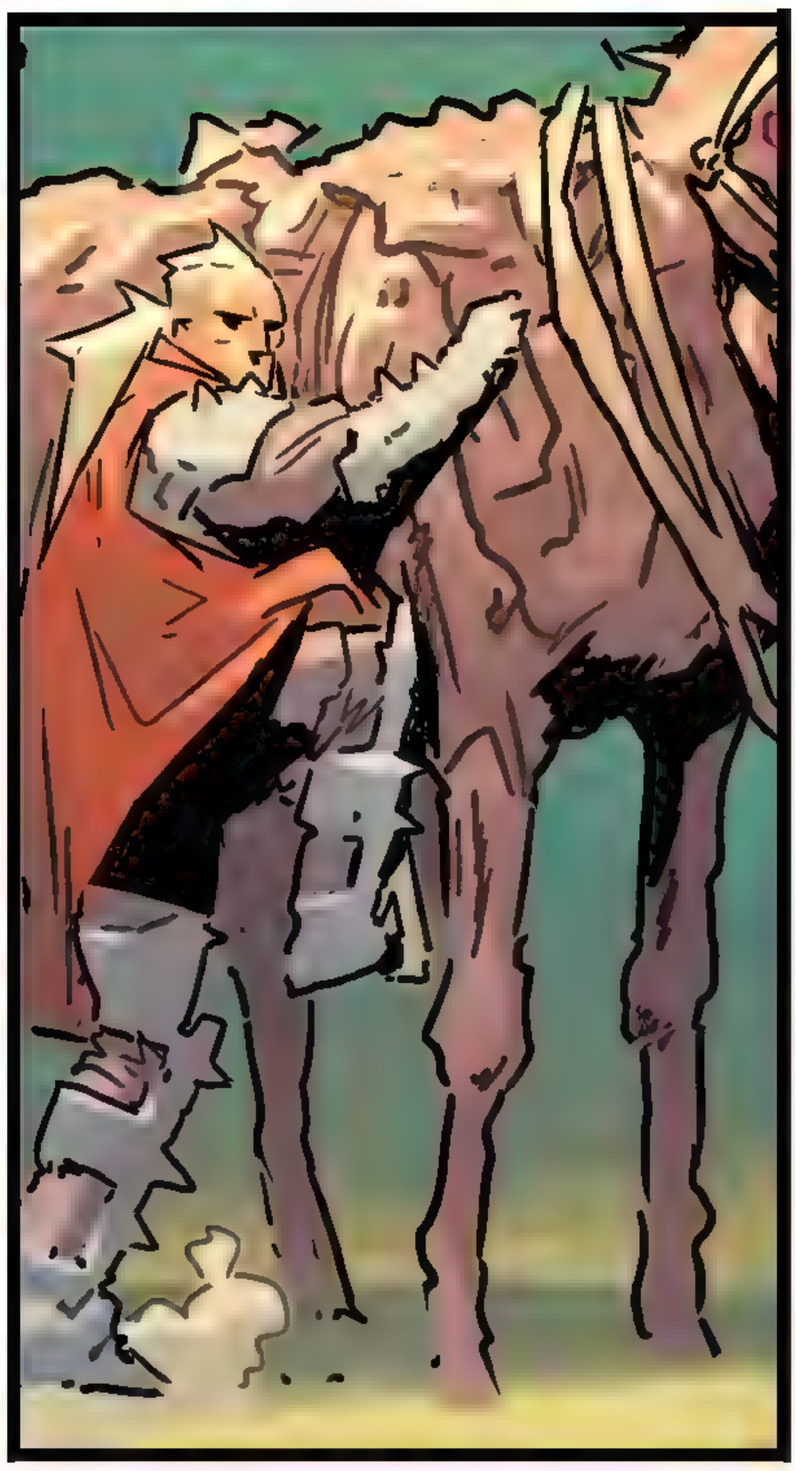
Oof!

I release you.



Damn damn damn.

If you want me that bad...



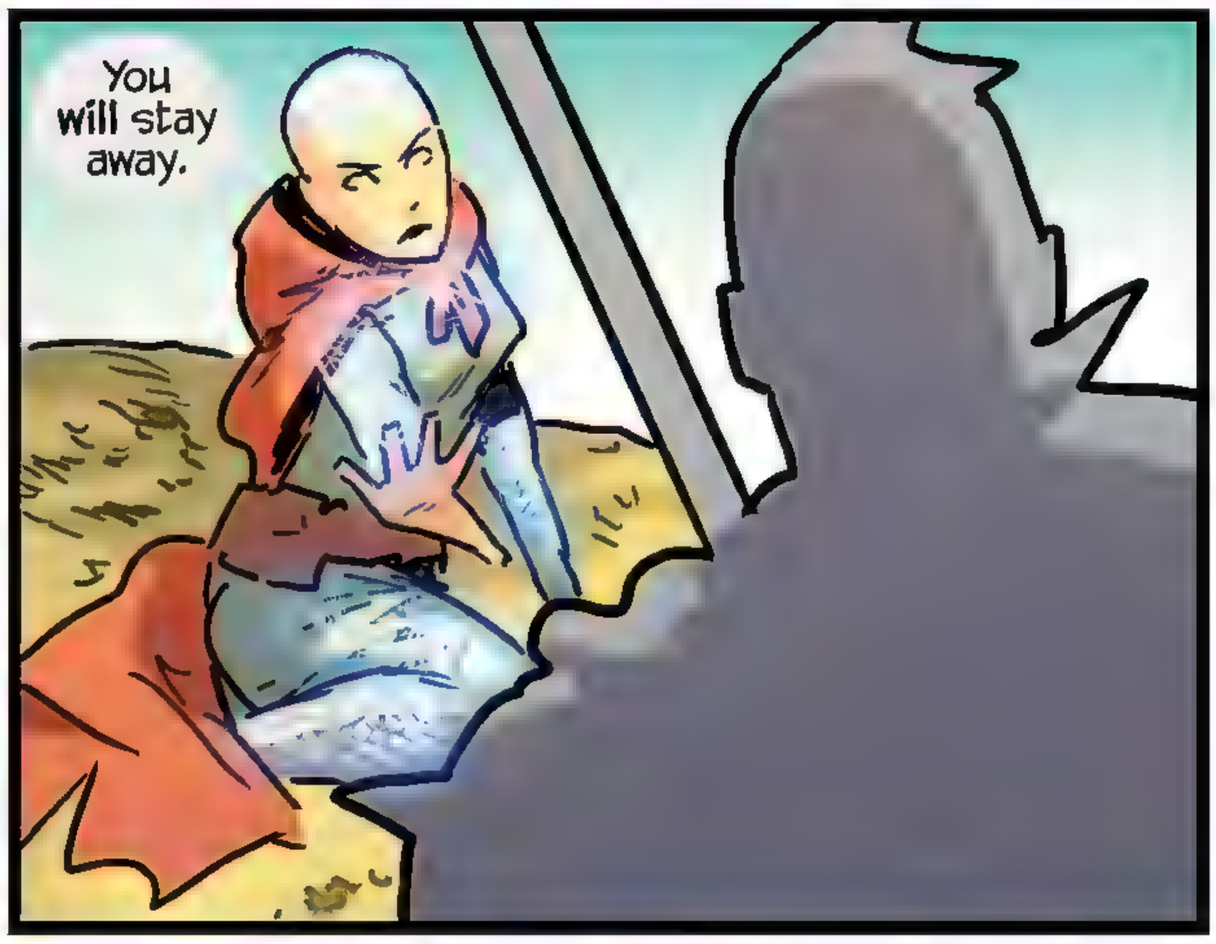
...feel free to follow.

Damn.

Are you **finished?** Can this be over? I grow tired of this life.

Stay away from me.

I wish that had even been an option.


You will stay away.

I won't. I can't. But I have seen this trick before...

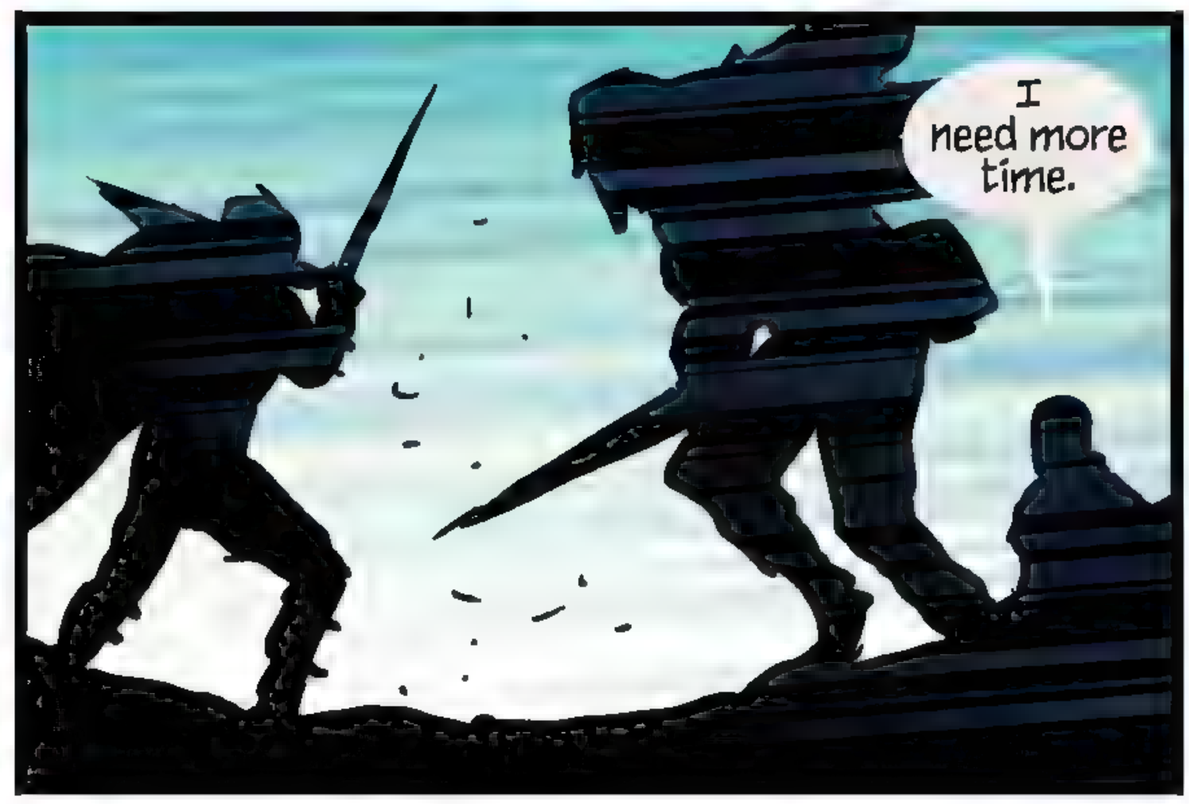
...you're too late for witchcraft.
Well, then...

...violence will have to do!

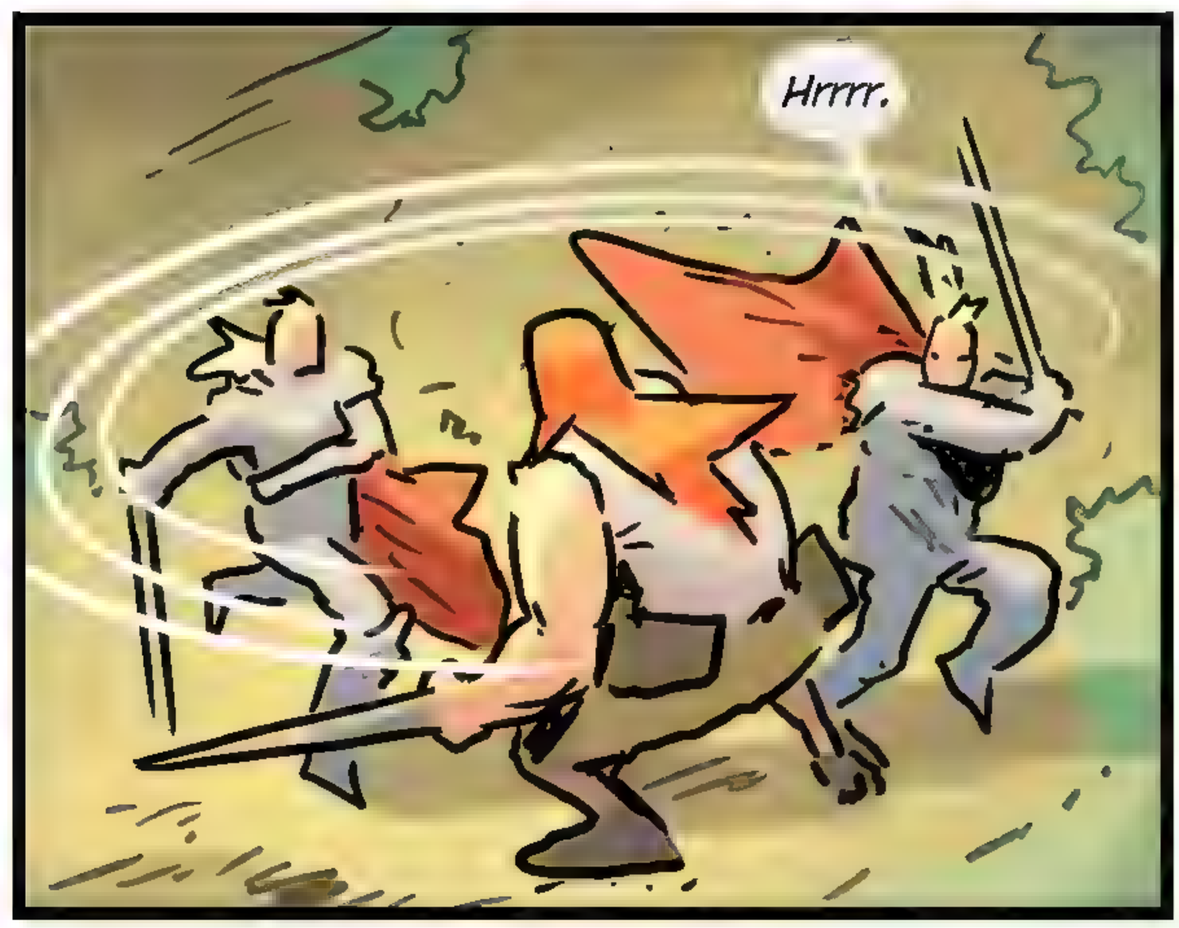
This is not your fight, Strayer.
I like to think that **any** fight is my fight, if I work hard enough.

Getting away from the bottomless chasm would be very good. **Magic** would be even better.
You came.

I did. Magic?


I need more time.

Terrific. Maybe have a nap first. This isn't difficult.


Hrrrr.

You won't stop me.
We'll--

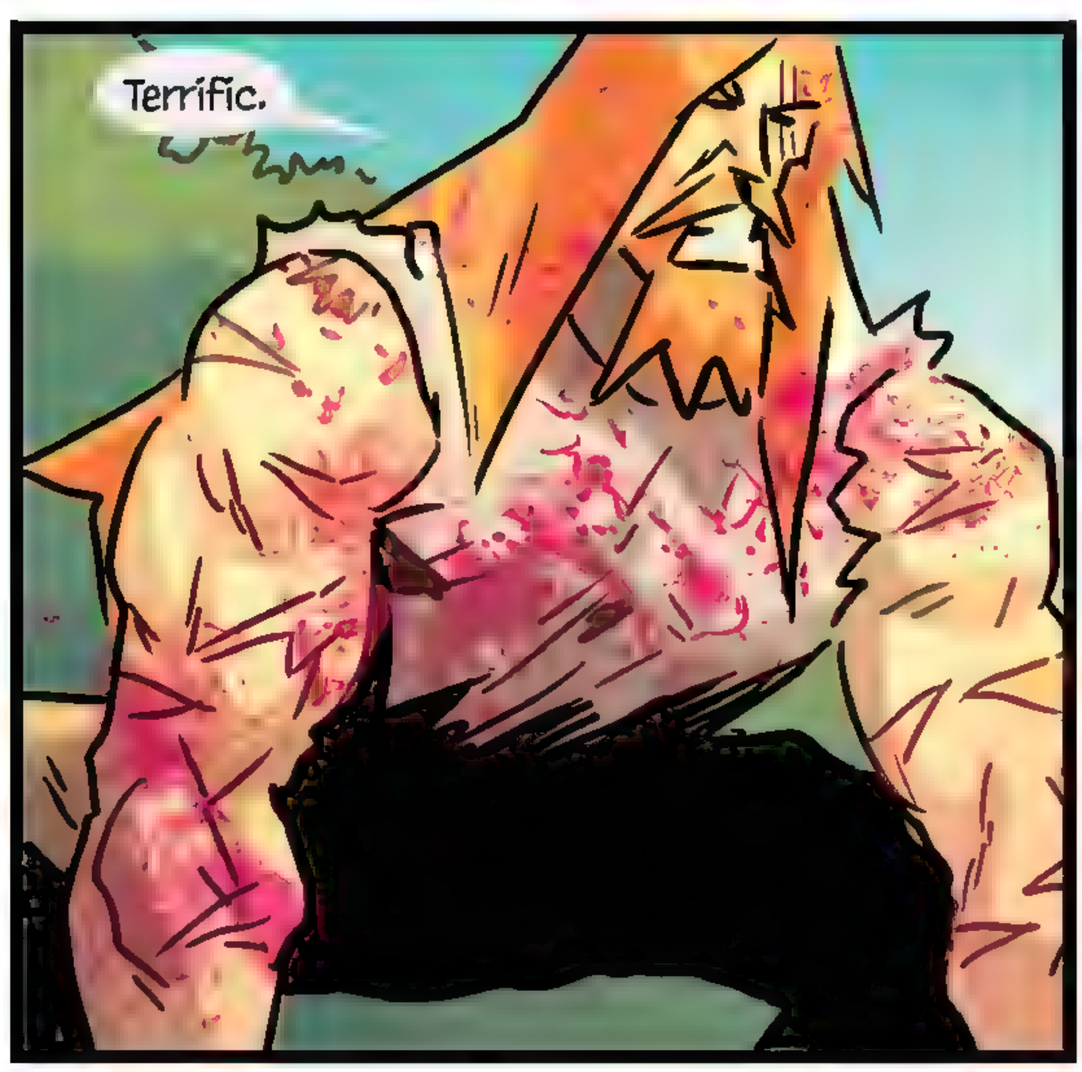
BASTARD.

You didn't think you had the only variable blade, did you?

Mal-- go.

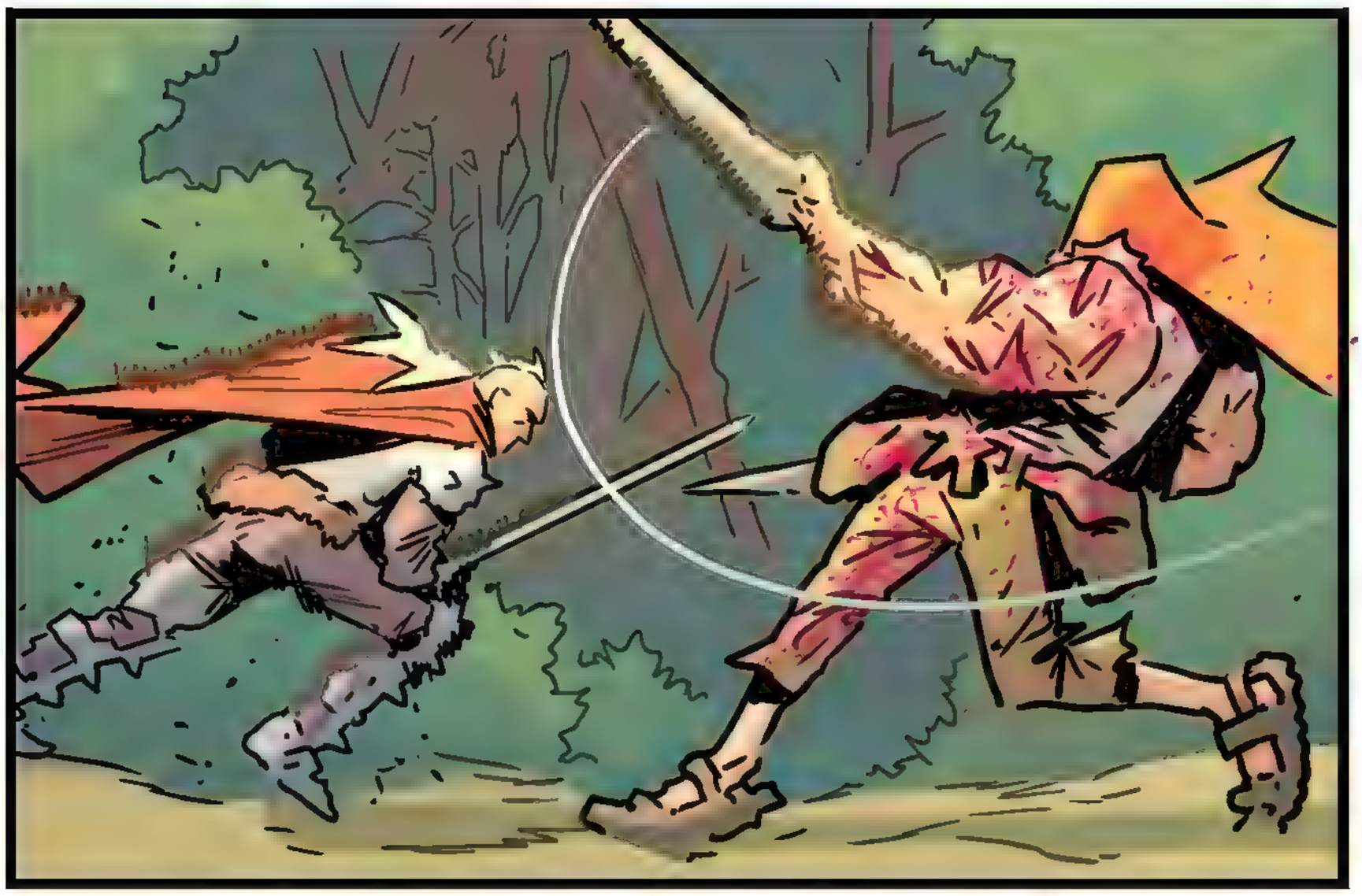
I command you to surrender.

No.


Terrific.

I command you to surrender.

Stop her. Kill her.

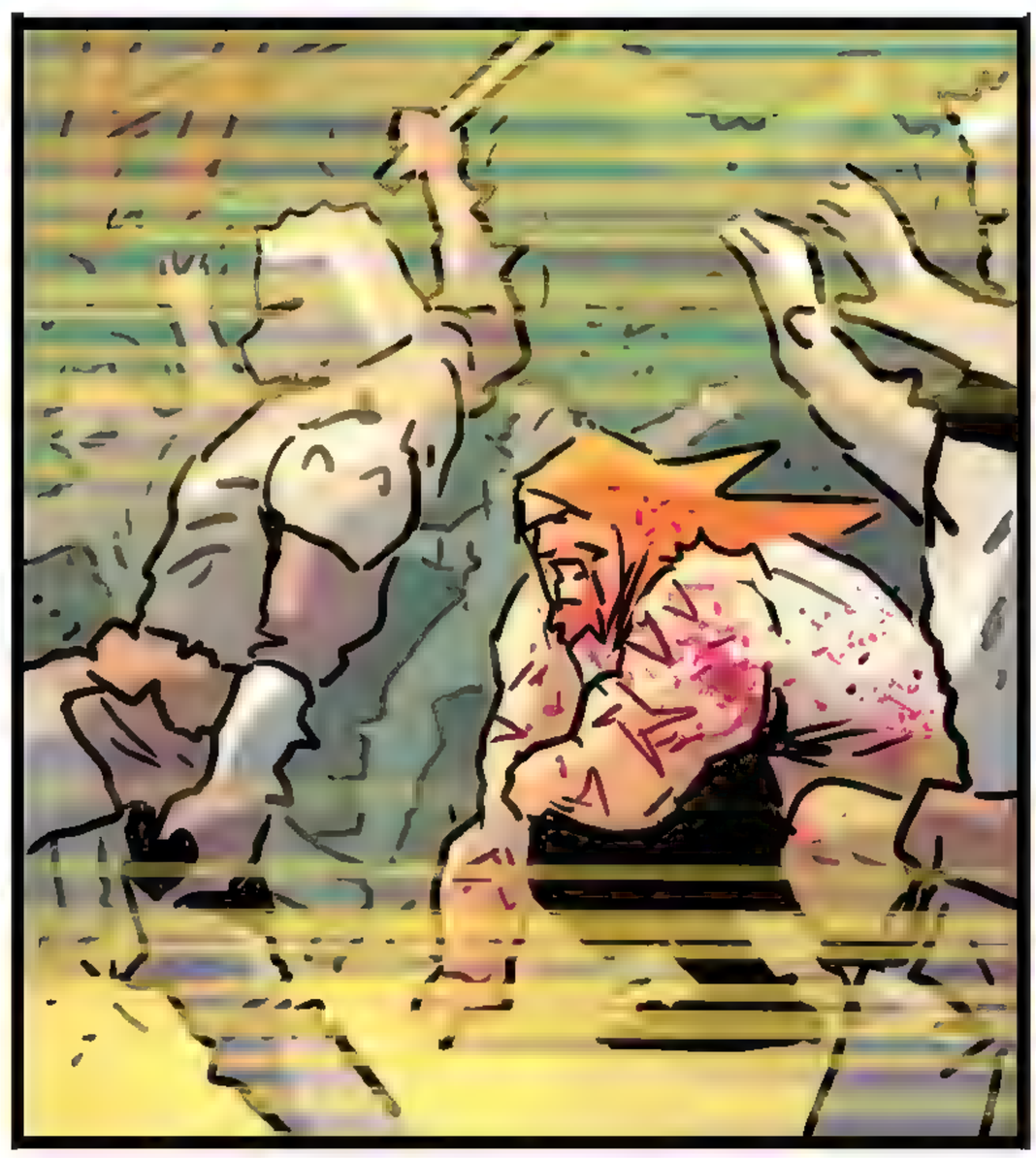


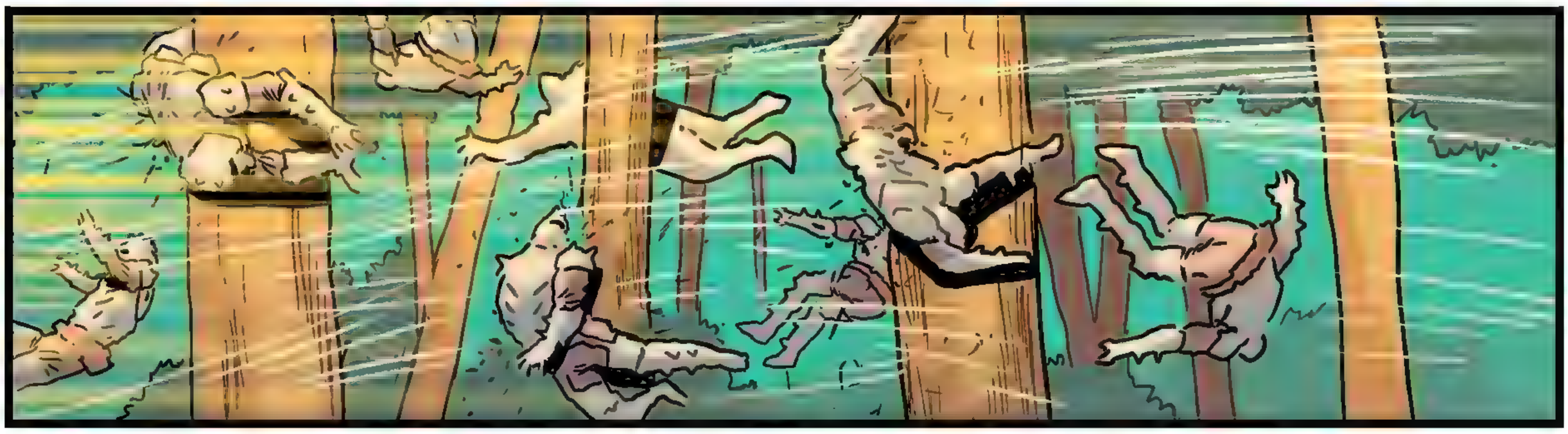
Quickly, before she can--

Distract you?

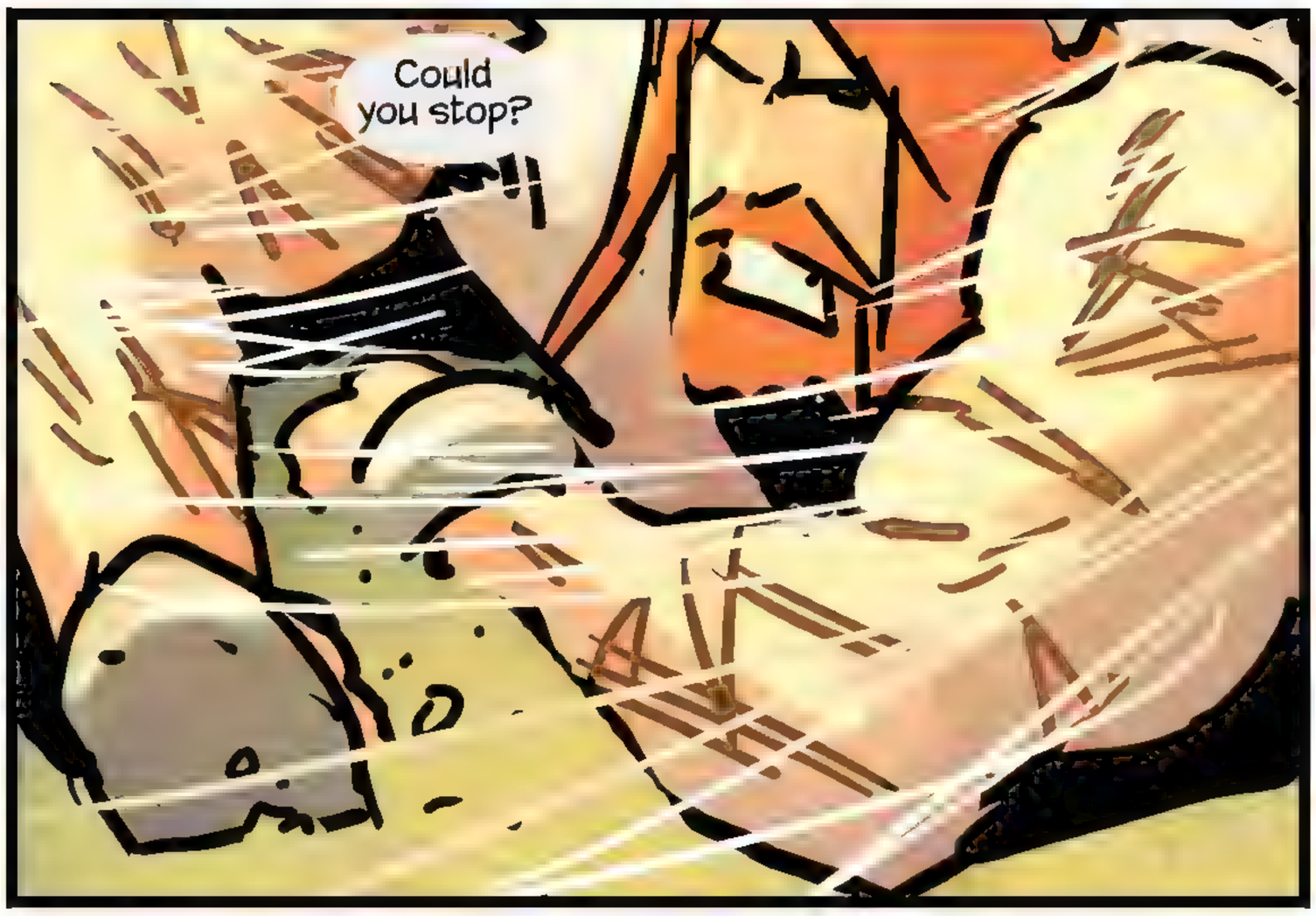
I command you, I command you.

Give me power!





They are **nothing.** **You** are nothing.



Is it over?

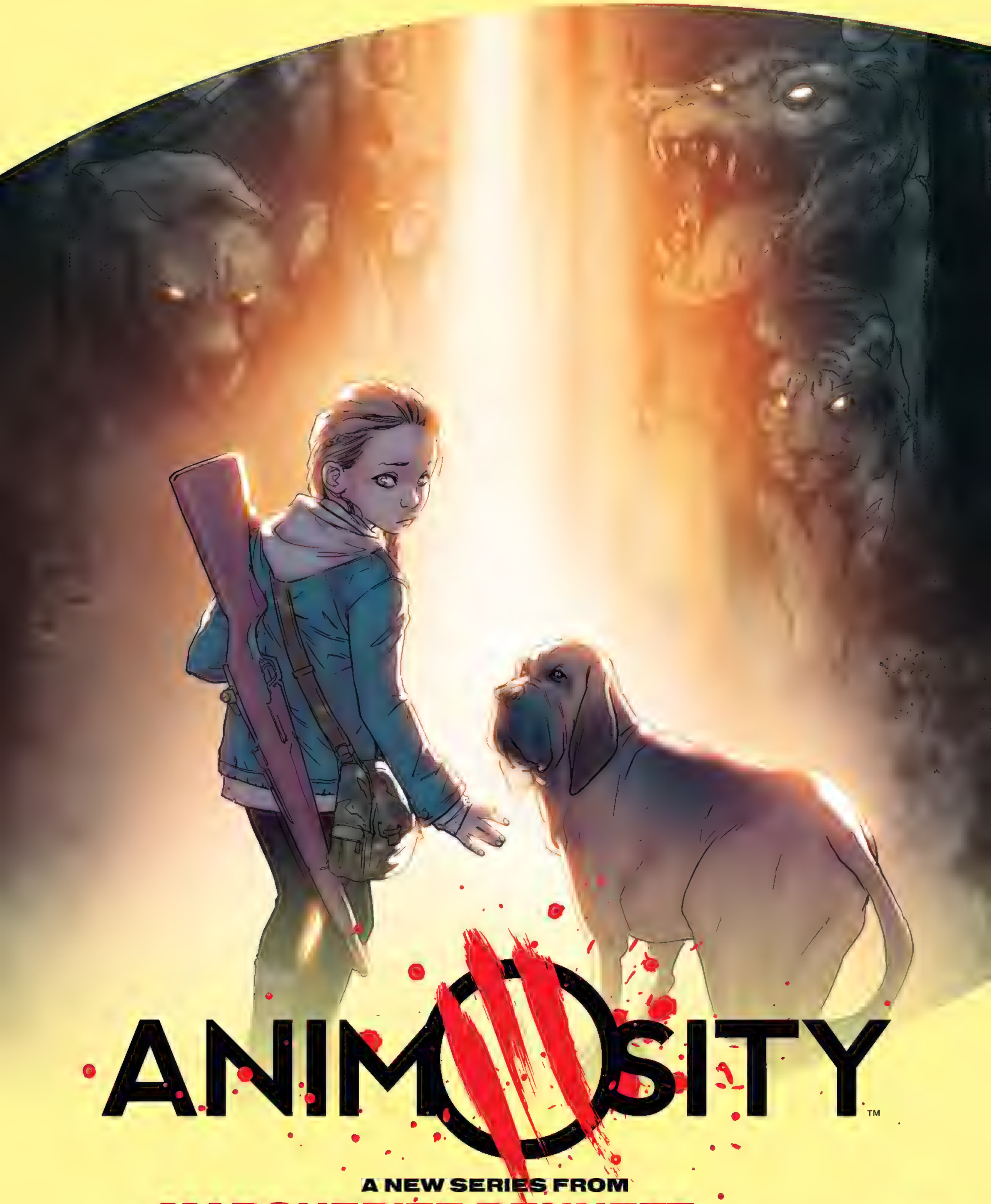
Oh, I doubt it. The Grammar will send more. But we've got some time.
That will have to do.

We need to make it to Lalland. We will be--
Don't say "safe".

"Because I am just about pretty sure...

"...we're still a long way from safe."
END CHAPTER ONE

One day, for no damn reason, the Animals woke up. They started thinking. They started talking. They started taking revenge.



A NEW SERIES FROM

MARGUERITE BENNETT (INSEXTS)

AND RAFAEL DE LATORRE (SUPERZERO)

ON SALE IN AUGUST

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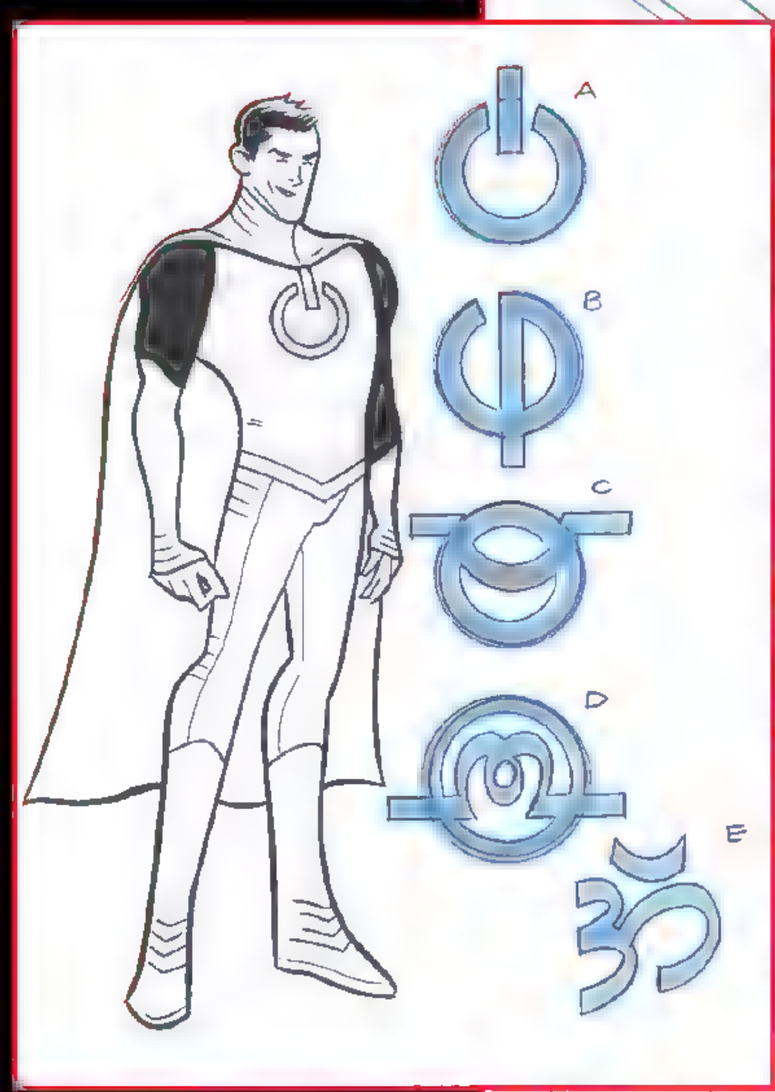
*"When we're figuring out what's next for CAPTAIN KID, I try to keep in mind a line from the novel **Still Life With Woodpecker** by Tom Robbins: 'It's never too late to have a happy childhood'."*

Tom Peyer, co-creator and co-writer

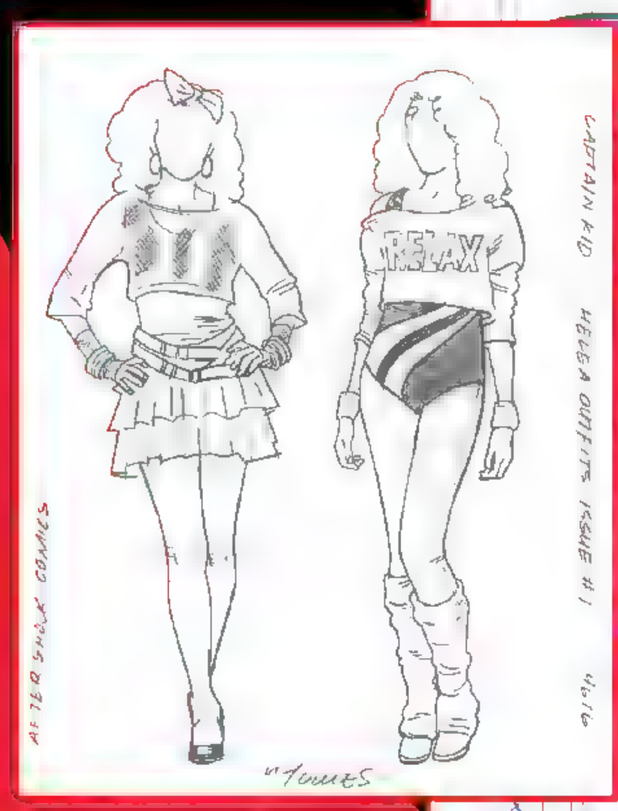


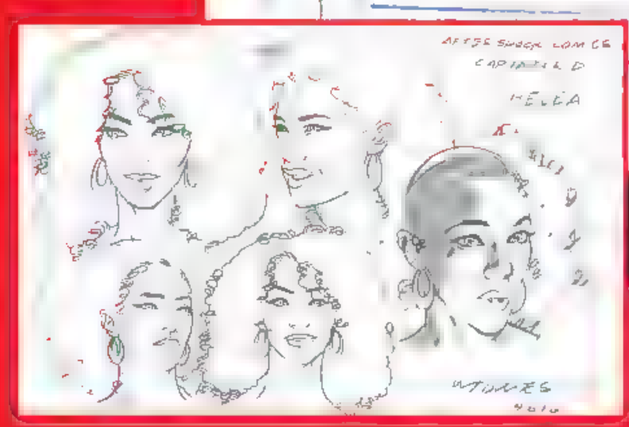
Chris' entire world turns upside-down when Helea, a far-future freedom fighter, shows him how to transform himself into a super-powered 15-year-old boy.

"CAPTAIN KID is a dream project for Tom and I because it gives us a chance to do what we love best—find an all-new truth inside the kind of heroes we enjoy writing about."

Mark Waid, co-creator and co-writer

CAPTAIN KID is like SHAZAM meets DOCTOR WHO!

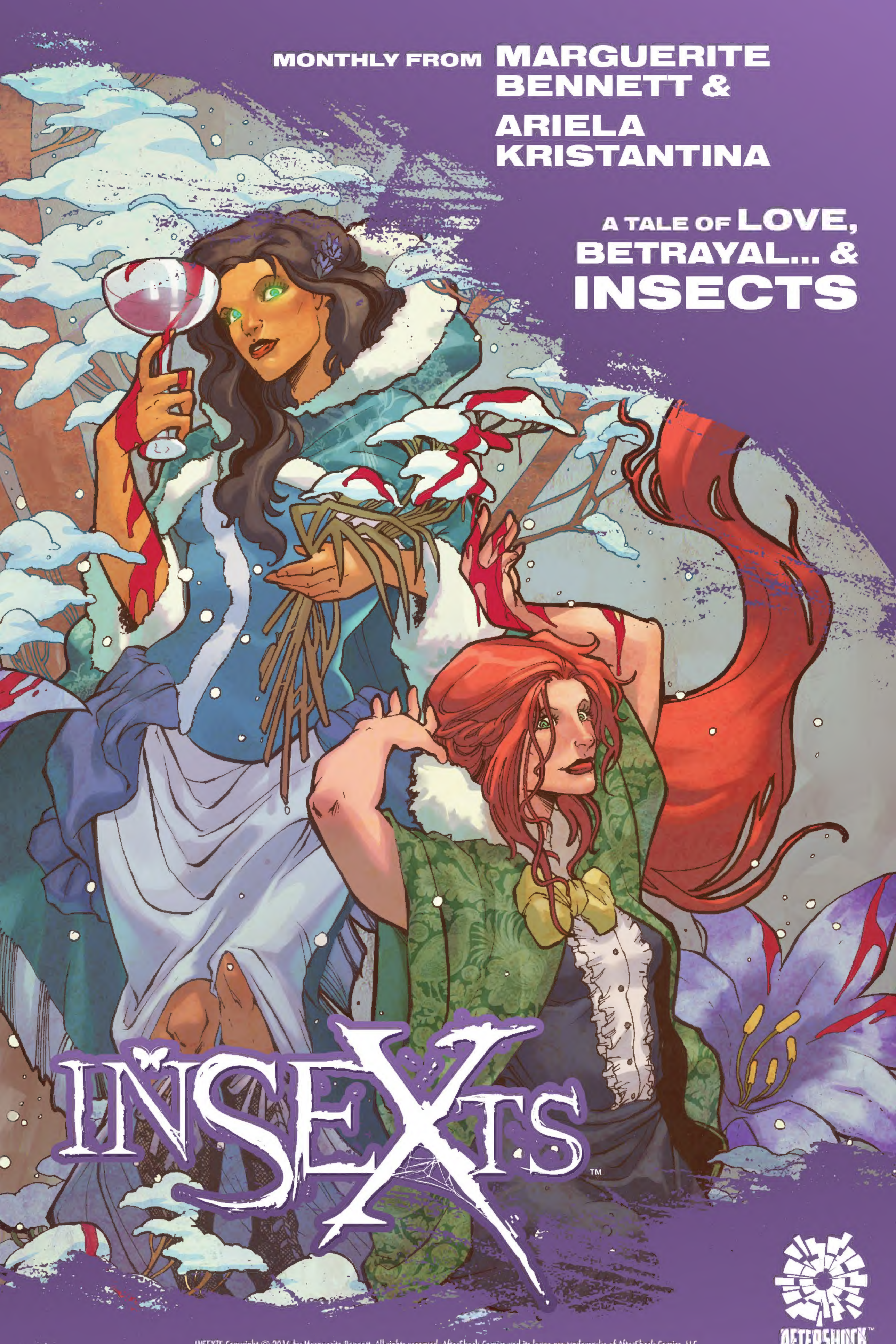




"CAPTAIN KID is a dream team of creators to me. I've been coloring Wilfredo's covers for a little over a year now and I'm excited to finally work on his interior pages!"

Kelly Fitzpatrick, colorist

#1 on sale in July
#2 on sale in August
#3 in September, and so on!



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ABOUT THE CREATORS OF

STRAYER™

JUSTIN JORDAN writer

@Justin_Jordan

Justin Jordan broke into comics with *The Strange Talent of Luther Strode* with Tradd Moore at Image. Since then, he's written two more *Strode* series for Image, as well as *Dead Body Road* with Matteo Scalera and *Spread* with Kyle Strahm. He's recently written the creator-owned series *Deep State* and *John Flood* for BOOM! He rebooted *Shadowman* for Valiant and *Team 7* for DC's New 52. His other works have included *The Adventures of Superman, Deathstroke, Superboy* and, most recently, a two-year run on *Green Lantern: New Guardians*. He lives in very rural Pennsylvania with a cat named Tom Waits. Who is a girl. And adorable.

JUAN GEDEON artist

@juan_gedeon

Juan Gedeon was born in Argentina in 1987. He started doing storyboards, illustrations and animatics at age 18. After that, he did countless comic pitches for independent writers that never got picked up. Juan lived in Mexico for four years where he produced storyboards and layouts for an animated movie. After chomping at the bit for almost ten years, he drew *Ghost Racers* for Marvel Comics in 2015.

TAMRA BONVILLAIN colorist

@TBonvillain

Tamra Bonvillain graduated from the Joe Kubert School in 2009. For the next four years, she worked at Spiderwebart for Greg Hildbrandt and Jean Scrocco doing design work, retouching paintings, cleaning/scanning drawings, and other various tasks. While there she began coloring in her off hours, eventually moving back near her hometown to pursue coloring full time. She is currently coloring *Strayer, Rat Queens, Wayward, Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, John Flood,* and more.

RACHEL DEERING letterer

@racheldeering

Rachel Deering is an Eisner and Harvey award-nominated writer, editor, and letterer. She has worked in some capacity for nearly every publisher in the industry, but is perhaps best known for her efforts on the massive horror anthology, *In the Dark* and her writing in *Creepy*. She enjoys collecting arcade cabinets, monster masks, and vinyl records in her spare time.

THIS MONTH FROM

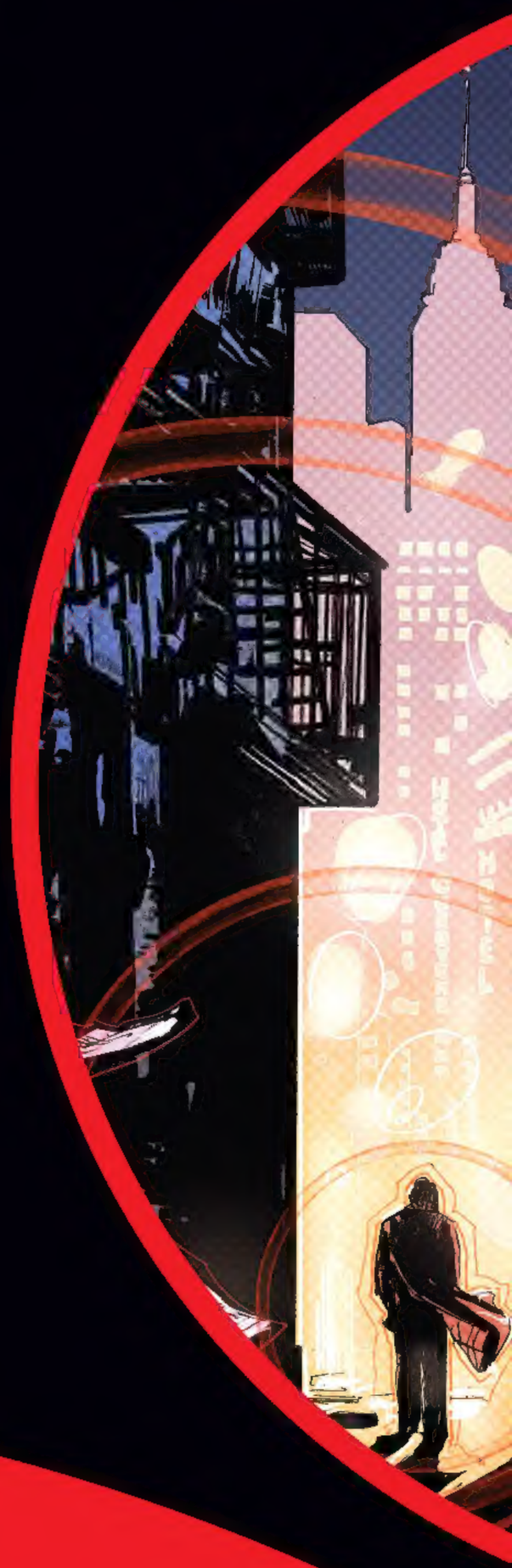
AFTERSHOCK™

ROUGH RIDERS #4
ADAM GLASS / PATRICK OLLIFFE

THE REVISIONIST #2
FRANK BARBIERE/ GARRY BROWN

CAPTAIN KID #1
MARK WAID / TOM PEYER / WILFREDO TORRES

SECOND SIGHT #6
DAVID HINE / ALBERTO PONTICELLI



AMERICAN MONSTER #4
BRIAN AZZARELLO / JUAN DOE

BLACK-EYED KIDS #4
JOE PRUETT / SZYMON KUDRANSKI

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